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**Use and Awareness of Open Access E -Resources Among Academicians
in Kerala: An Overview**

Jomy Jose

Asst. Librarian, Asian School of Business, Technocity, Trivandrum, Kerala

mail2jomichan@gmail.com

Abstract

Nowadays libraries of academic institutions have been providing electronic resources to users including open access e-resources. Academic professionals use electronic resources for various purposes. The aim of this study is to find out the use and awareness of open access e-resources by academicians in Kerala state. Structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the sample and telephone conversations, e-mail discussions and personal interviews with the lectures were made to verify data from the sample. The total population for the study was 300 lecturers from various universities of Kerala state. Out of the total of 300 questionnaires distributed 287 respondents returned filled in questionnaire. The response rate therefore accounts for 95.67%. Frequency counts and simple percentages were used in analyzing the data. Study found that 19.16 % respondents use different open access e-resources when necessary, 21.96 % occasionally and rest of them (58.88%) very often. Academic professionals purposes of using the openly accessible e-resources are for writing scholarly articles (50.17%) followed by work shops and seminar preparation (27.53%) and for research (16.73%). Only 3.48 percentage respondents are used openly available e-resources for teaching. The extent of awareness of open access e-resources in various disciplines revealed that greater usage of open access e-resources was reported by social science stream 189 (65.85%) followed Science streams 98(34.15%).

Keywords : Awareness ,Open Access, E -Resources ,Academicians ,Kerala.

Introduction

In the era of digital information environment the academicians interests are now days moving towards accessing and using e resources for their academic activities. E - Resources play an important role in the creation and speedy communication of knowledge. There are thousands of open access titles available in internet. The open access movement is opening alternate channels for the distribution of scholarly work towards the academic community in both social science and science streams .As the availability of open access e resources increasing, accessing to these e resources is also increasing gradually. The aim of this study is to find out the use and awareness of open access e-resources by academicians in Kerala state.

Review of literature

Ariffin and Abu Bakar (2013) examined the use of e- resources around education lecturers at a government funded college in Malaysia. 55 education lecturers were participated in the study by

through a survey .The significant discoveries uncovered a " neutral " recognition around the training teachers on the tests that they confronted in utilizing e resources; despite the fact that they were tests none were excessively unfavorable towards the utilization of e- resources. The education lecturers additionally reacted by giving recommendations on the most proficient method to enhance the use of e resources; by giving all the more preparing to teachers, give preparing to scholars, giving better Internet facilities , empowering additionally offering of data on e-resources, and empowering the utilization of e- resources in showing and taking in.

Eiriemiokhale (2013) researched the lecturers' level of satisfaction with accessible electronic information resources in colleges in Edo State. The downright populace for the study was two thousand eight hundred and twenty one (2821) lecturers from four colleges in Edo state and sample size of 380 respondents was drawn from two personnel in each of the four colleges. Questionnaire was the primary

instrument for information collection. Findings uncovered that University speakers use electronic resources basically for exploration, picking up subject learning and readiness of addresses. It additionally uncovered that University teachers in Edo state are exceedingly fulfilled by the use of electronic resources.

Obuh (2013) inspected Library and Information Science(LIS) lecturers' attitude towards open access scholarly publications in Southern Nigeria. 141 LIS lecturers coordinated in this study. The study uncovered that the level of use of open access distributions by both senior and lesser LIS speakers is high, use by lesser instructors are a bit higher. The study prescribed that administration ought to outfit schools with the empowering foundation and that scholarly remunerate frameworks ought to be intended to support open access productions.

Olatokun and Ntemana (2013) examined Information and Communication Technology (ICT) utilization variables, competency level in use, and tests compelling use by the instructors at the National University of Lesotho (Nul). Data was gathered with an organized survey managed to 213 respondents. Findings revealed that greater part of the teachers utilized different ICT resources and facilities and were equipped in utilizing ICT for the majority of their routine work. The real tests that obliged their utilization of ICT were lacking access, insufficient ICT offices to utilize and unpredictable correspondence framework. In light of these discoveries, it was prescribed that the NUL powers ought to enhance ICT use around speakers through preparing, give more ICT gear and services, encourage simple access to ICT, put resources into obtaining of ICT, and overhaul the data transfer capacity.

Yared and Patrick (2013) considered the open access e resources use around scholastic experts in Ethiopia. Data were acquired through questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. Out of 768 academics from seven chose colleges in Ethiopia who were studied, 566 (78 percent) reacted. The outcomes of the study uncovered that 78 percent of the academics were mindful of open access e resources. All in all, they have an apparent uplifting demeanor towards open access e resources and might want to utilize them as a part of what's to come. Additionally, they have been utilizing open access e resources as an

elective access model to the ordinary e resources membership model; but to upgrade the profits of open access around scholastics, they anticipate that college administrators will push and improve the availability of open access e resources in their individual college libraries and in Ethiopia in general.

Arachchige and Karunaratna (2012) concentrated on the information seeking behavior of academics of engineering faculties of Sri Lanka around the utilization of electronic resources for their instructing learning and research needs. The examination was made to distinguish the degree of utilizing commercial e- resources and open access e-resources to satisfy their information needs. The technique involved in this study was the specimen overview, where the specimens were chosen on group foundation from scholarly staff parts of designing personnel of University of Ruhuna, University of Peradeniya and University of Moratuwa. The outcomes demonstrate that utilization of electronic resources around scholastics is high and designing scholastics satisfy their data needs generally however Open Access e-resources than commercial e-resources in light of the fact that get to commercial e-resources is excessive and access facilities are constrained in the nation. Scholastics acquire business e-resources basically from particular personal purchasing or from different channels than from the library. Dominant part of designing scholastics do looking toward oneself to place data from the Internet.

Gunasekaran and Arunachalam(2011) contemplated the publication production pattern of Indian scientists. The study found that Indian scientists have distributed more than 43,400 papers in excess of 4,600 journals in 2009 as seen from Science Citation Index (SCI) – Expanded. Of these, in excess of 6,900 (or one in six) papers were distributed in 445 Open Access (OA) journals. The extent of papers distributed by Indian scientists in OA journals is respectably higher than the world average which is evaluated to be 8.5–10.0%. although India distributes well over a thousand journals, including something like 360 OA journals, SCI Expanded listed in 2009 just 101 Indian S&T journals including 46 OA journals. It is likely that the rate of Indian papers in OA journals as seen from SCI will be higher if more Indian journals are filed in SCI Expanded.

Vishala and Bhandi (2011) directed a study to recognize the awareness about the open access journals of faculty members of five Autonomous Colleges in Dakshina Kannada area of Karnataka. Organized surveys were appropriated to 200 instructors of selected branches of each of the five schools. The study outcome uncovers that the dominant part respondents are unaware of open access e resources and around the individuals who utilizes electronic e resources lion's share of them are utilizing open access e resources for their scholastic purposes.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are listed here:-

- To check the frequency of use of open access e resources
- To identify the purpose of seeking information from open access e resources
- To assess the extent of use of open access e resources discipline wise.
- To make suggestions to better use of openly available e-resources

Scope and Limitations of the study

Considering the importance of open access e resources the research study has been undertaken to academicians in Kerala state. The study covering arts and science colleges and universities academic professionals in Kerala state only .This is the limitation of the study.

Methodology

The study covers academicians from Kerala state. As the study population was scattered throughout Kerala, questionnaire method was adopted for collecting data keeping in view of the objectives of the study. Structured questionnaire was used to gather data from the sample and telephone conversations, e-mail discussions and interviews with the academic professionals were made to verify the data from the sample. In total structured questionnaires were distributed to 300 academicians. Out of the total of 300 questionnaires distributed 287 respondents returned filled in questionnaire. The response rate therefore accounts for 95.67 %.

Data analysis

Data analysis is the process of inspecting, transforming, and modeling **data** with the goal of discovering useful information and suggesting conclusions. Here frequency counts and simple percentages were used in analyzing the data.

Table -1: Demographic factors

Sl.No	Variables	Factors	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gender	Male	137	47.74
		Female	150	52.26
		Total	287	100
2	Age	20-30	74	25.8
		30-40	118	41.10
		40-50	65	22.64
		50-60	24	8.36
		Above 60	6	2.10
		Total	287	100
3	Educational Qualifications	PG	196	68.29
		MPhil	38	13.24
		PhD	53	18.47
		Total	287	100

A study of data in table- 1 indicates the gender distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 287 respondents, majority of the respondents (52.26%) belong to the female group and the rest of them (47.74%) are males. It is concluded that female respondents constitute more in number

than male respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 287 respondents, 25.8 percent of them belong to the age group of 20-30 years and 41.10 percent of them come under the age group of 30-40 years. In this study, 22.64 percent of the respondents' age is in the range of 40-50 years and

8.36 percentage them come under 50-60 .2.10 per cent of them are found in the age group of above 60 years. Table -1 shows that majority of the respondents are post graduates. i.e ; 68.29 percentage of the total 287 respondents ,13.24 percentage have MPhil and 18.47 percentage have Ph.D in their respective field.

Table-2: Frequency of use of open access e resources

Sl.No.	Source	Frequency	Percentage
1	Very often	169	58.88
2	Occasionally	63	21.96
3	When necessary	55	19.16
	Total	287	100

Table- 2 shows that 19.16 % respondents use different open access e- resources when necessary, 21.96 % occasionally and rest of them (58.88%) very often.(Figure-1)

Figure-1: Frequency of use of open access e resources

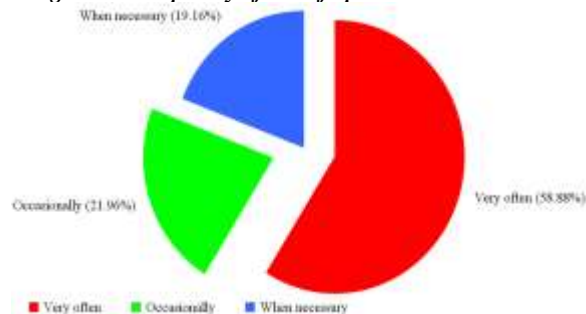


Table-3: Purpose of seeking information from open access e- resources

Sl.No.	Source	Frequency	Percentage
1	For teaching	10	3.48
2	For research	48	16.73
3	For workshops and Seminars	79	27.53
4	For writing scholarly articles	144	50.17
5	Others	6	2.09
	Total	287	100

Table -3 indicated that lecturers main purpose of using the openly accessible e-resources is for writing scholarly articles (50.17%) followed by work shops and seminar preparation (27.53%) and for research (16.73%).Only 3.48 percentage respondents are

used openly available e resources for teaching purpose.(Figure-2)

Figure-2: Purpose of seeking information from open access e resources

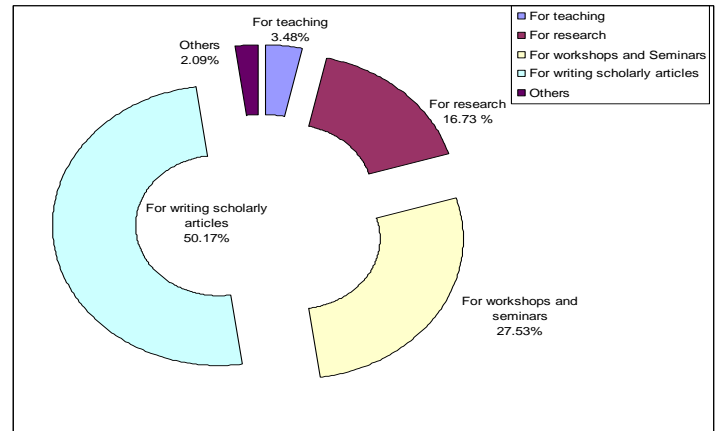
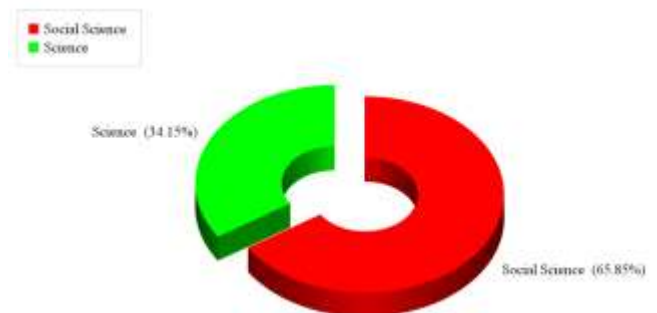


Table -4:Discipline-wise awareness of open access e- resources

Sl.No.	Discipline-wise	Frequency	Percentage
1	Social Science	189	65.85
2	Science	98	34.15
	Total	287	100

Table -4 shows the extent of awareness of open access e-resources in various disciplines revealed that greater usage of open access e-resources was reported by social science stream 189 (65.85%) followed Science streams 98(34.15%).(Figure-3)

Figure-3 :Discipline-wise awareness of open access e- resources



Conclusion

The use of electronic information resources by lecturers working in various colleges and universities proved to have positively affected their work. This study suggested that lecturers should train and retrain themselves on the use of electronic information resources so as to make them viable in this 21st century. The managements should provide funds for subscription to more electronic primary and secondary sources. Study recommended that qualified information technology and networking experts should be provided to solve the problem of networking and hardware issues. Academic institution management should engage the services of computer hardware and software experts to handle system and network failures. It was further recommended that the government should improve the infrastructure and lower the tariffs on ICT technologies with a view to improving better exploitation of e resources. There is need to mount more and frequent electronic information resources training workshops. Academic libraries should provide useful information related to open access electronic materials through workshops and seminars for better utilization of e-resources. The use of electronic resources can be said to have positively affected lecturers' writings in scholarly articles, research and their work in general.

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